Testimony for Public Hearing Education Committee March 1st, 2019

To the honorable members of the Joint Committee on Education:

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, I hid in my living room with my 9-month-old baby while police and first responders swarmed around our home to secure the Sandy Hook School. We were instructed to stay low and away from windows in case of stray gunfire. Like many in our community, the sound of sirens brings my day to a halt and reminders of that day meet me at every turn. We live in the shadow of one of the greatest educational failures in history.

While the issues of 12/14 remain complex and deeply divisive, I firmly believe that every parent should have the constitutional freedom to do what they feel is best for their children. After that day, I decided I would never entrust my children to the school system. I believe that bill S.B.874 unfairly targets homeschooling families and will take time and resources desperately needed by the public school system and attempt to regulate home educating families.

Please focus on keeping our neighbor's children safe, reducing bullying, and educating the children in the public school system before knocking on our doors.

Alexandra Kulick

Sandy Hook, Connecticut